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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of Alice Romans-Hess, et al. Art Unit 3761
Serial No. 10/684,181
Filed October 10, 2003
Confirmation No. 2587
For ABSORBENT ARTICLES HAVING INCREASED ABSORBENCY OF COMPLEX FLUIDS

May 17, 2007

TO THE COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS,
SIR:

LETTER TO PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In response to the Office action dated February 28, 2007, please consider the following remarks.

REMARKS

No claims have been amended herein. Upon entry of this Letter To Patent And Trademark Office, claims 1-4, 6-10, 12-20, and 22-28 will be pending. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims.

1. Rejection of the Claims under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Reconsideration is requested of the rejection of claims 1-4, 6-10, 12-20, and 22-28 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Everett, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,437,214).

Claim 1 is directed to an absorbent article for absorbing a complex fluid. The absorbent article comprises an absorbent structure and superabsorbent particles, wherein at least about 5% (by total weight of the superabsorbent particles) of the superabsorbent particles are flake superabsorbents and have an average surface area to volume ratio of at least about 0.05 μm^{-1}, an average thickness of no more than about 40 micrometers, and a particle size distribution of from about 100 micrometers to about 850 micrometers.